

**TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**TIME:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**PLACE:** Office of the Commission

**PRESENT:** Chairman Corr, Commissioner Blackwell, Commissioner Martin, Manager Goulart, Ms. Holmes, Attorney Pollart (KP Law), Mr. Melanson, Mr. Irving, Mr. Foley, Ms. Davine, Mr. October, Mr. Botelho, Mr. Strojny, Mr. Tremont, Mr. Bell, Ms. Silveira, Mr. Worthington

Chairman Corr called the meeting to order.

Chairman Corr asked for a Moment of Silence for Richard LaJoie, a retiree of the TMLP who passed away.

Chairman Corr called for a roll call.

**Present**

**Absent**

Commissioner Blackwell  
Commissioner Martin  
Chairman Corr

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2021**

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2021**

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blackwell to approve. Unanimous.

21-110

**REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 5, 2021**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 12, 2021**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 19, 2021**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 26, 2021**

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve. Unanimous.

21-111

**AWARD OF SEALED BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS:**

**Award of Proposal for ISG Wholesale Backbone Bandwidth Delivery Services**

Manager Goulart read the following proposal evaluation into the record:

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ISG Wholesale Backbone Bandwidth Delivery Services Proposals Evaluation												
RFP 21-03												
August 31, 2021												
Vendor	Bandwidth	MRC 2-Year Term	MRC 3-Year Term	MRC 5-Year Term	Burst Rates	Total Internet Monthly Recurring Cost	Non-Recurring Cost	Service Handoff	Bypass Verizon CO	Bypass Providence	Meets Specs	Comments
CapeNet	5Gbps	N/A	\$3,600.00	\$3,240.00	N/A		\$0.00					
	6Gbps	N/A	\$3,900.00	\$3,510.00	N/A		\$0.00					
	7Gbps	N/A	\$4,200.00	\$3,780.00	N/A		\$0.00					
	8Gbps	N/A	\$4,400.00	\$3,960.00	N/A		\$0.00					
	9Gbps	N/A	\$4,600.00	\$4,140.00	N/A		\$0.00					
	10Gbps	N/A	\$4,800.00	\$4,320.00	N/A	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	Lakeville & Bridgewater	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	15Gbps	N/A	\$6,400.00	\$5,760.00	N/A		\$24,000.00					
	20Gbps	N/A	\$7,400.00	\$6,665.00	N/A		\$24,000.00					
Internet 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A					
DDOS 5Gbps	N/A	N/A	\$950.00	\$950.00	N/A		N/A					
DDOS 10Gbps	N/A	N/A	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	N/A	\$1,750.00	N/A					
DDOS 20Gbps	N/A	N/A	\$2,450.00	\$2,450.00	N/A		N/A					
Total						\$6,550.00						
Oshean	5Gbps	\$4,950.00	\$4,455.00	\$4,207.00	7.5Gbps		\$0.00					
	6Gbps	\$5,550.00	\$4,995.00	\$4,717.00	9Gbps		\$0.00					
	7Gbps	\$6,150.00	\$5,535.00	\$5,227.00	10.5Gbps	\$5,535.00	\$0.00	Lakeville & Norton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Recommended Vendor
	8Gbps	\$6,750.00	\$6,075.00	\$5,737.00	12Gbps		\$0.00					
	9Gbps	\$7,350.00	\$6,615.00	\$6,247.00	13.5Gbps		\$0.00					
	10Gbps	\$7,950.00	\$7,155.00	\$6,757.00	15Gbps		\$0.00					
	15Gbps	\$10,250.00	\$9,225.00	\$8,712.00	22.5Gbps		\$0.00					
	20Gbps	\$13,000.00	\$11,700.00	\$11,050.00	30Gbps		\$0.00					
Internet 2	Included	Included	Included	Included		\$0.00	\$0.00					
DDOS All Rates	Included	Included	Included	Included		\$0.00	\$0.00					
Total						\$5,535.00						
Crown Castle											No	Did not Meet Spec

TMLP recommends awarding Oshean at the lowest evaluated cost. The 3-year contract will provide wholesale Internet 1 & 2 backbone bandwidth delivery at 7 Gigabits per second burstable at 1.5 times the selling rate. Oshean's total monthly recurring cost of \$5,535.00 will provide diverse routes to Providence and Boston.

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blackwell to award the proposal for the ISG Wholesale Backbone Bandwidth Delivery Services to Oshean for a 3-year contract to provide wholesale Internet 1 & 2 backbone bandwidth delivery at 7 Gigabits per second burstable at 1.5 times the selling rate for a total monthly recurring cost of \$5,535.00. Unanimous. 21-112

## Award of Sealed Bid for 80 Single Phase Polemount Transformers 37.5kVA, 7.9/2.4kV Primary, 120/240V Secondary

Manager Goulart read the following bid evaluation into the record:

Transmission and Distribution Engineering Bid Evaluation									
80 Single Phase Polemount Transformers									
37.5kVA, 7.9/2.4kV Primary, 120/240V Secondary									
IFB 21-06					July 29, 2021				
Company	Meets Specs	Unit Price	Load Loss in Watts	No Load Loss in Watts	Evaluated Unit Price	Evaluated Total Price	Delivery Weeks	Total Purchase Price	Comments
Wesco Hookset, NH	YES	\$1,679.00	365	78	\$2,981.50	\$238,520.00	8-10	\$134,320.00	Quoting ERMCO
Wesco Hookset, NH	YES	\$1,864.00	344	94	\$3,194.00	\$255,520.00	8-10	\$149,120.00	Power Partners

No Bid - Graybar, Irby

The TMLP Engineering Department recommends Wesco Quoting ERMCO Transformers with low evaluated price for a total purchase price of \$134,320.

Commissioner Martin asked do we have any idea why Irby and Graybar did not bid.

Mr. Foley responded from what I understand they are having problems with deliveries and the order was not big enough for them to bid on.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commission Martin to award the sealed bid for 80 single phase Polemount transformers, 37.5kVA, 7.9/2.4kV Primary, 120/240V Secondary to Wesco 21-113

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 31, 2021**

quoting Ermco with low evaluated price for a total purchase price of \$134,250 per the recommendation of the T&D Engineering Department. Unanimous.

**Award of Sealed Bid for 40 Single Phase Polemount Transformers 37.5kVA, 7.9/2.4kV Primary, 277/480V Secondary**

Manager Goulart read the following bid evaluation into the record:

Transmission and Distribution Engineering Bid Evaluation									
40 Single Phase Polemount Transformers									
37.5kVA, 7.9/2.4kV Primary, 277/480V Secondary									
IFB 21-06					July 29, 2021				
Company	Meets Specs	Unit Price	Load Loss in Watts	No Load Loss in Watts	Evaluated Unit Price	Evaluated Total Price	Delivery Weeks	Total Purchase Price	Comments
Wesco Hookset, NH	YES	\$1,575.00	378	79	\$2,915.00	\$116,600.00	8-10	\$63,000.00	Quoting ERMCO
Wesco Hookset, NH	YES	\$1,805.00	335	95	\$3,117.50	\$124,700.00	8-10	\$72,200.00	Power Partners
No Bid - Graybar, Irby									
The TMLP Engineering Department recommends Wesco Quoting ERMCO Transformers with low evaluated price for a total purchase price of \$63,000									

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Martin to award the sealed bid for 40 Single Phase Polemount Transformers 37.5kVA, 7.9/2.4kV Primary, 277/480V Secondary to Wesco quoting Ermco with low evaluated price for a total purchase price of \$63,000 per the recommendation of the T&D Engineering Department. Unanimous. 21-114

**Award of Sealed Bid for 80 Single Phase Polemount Transformers 50kVA, 7.9/2.4 kV Primary, 120/240V Secondary**

Manager Goulart read the following bid evaluation into the record:

Transmission and Distribution Engineering Bid Evaluation									
80 Single Phase Polemount Transformers									
50kVA, 7.9/2.4kV Primary, 120/240V Secondary									
IFB 21-06					July 29, 2021				
Company	Meets Specs	Unit Price	Load Loss in Watts	No Load Loss in Watts	Evaluated Unit Price	Evaluated Total Price	Delivery Weeks	Total Purchase Price	Comments
Wesco Hookset, NH	YES	\$1,960.00	452	97	\$3,575.00	\$286,000.00	8-10	\$156,800.00	Quoting ERMCO
Wesco Hookset, NH	YES	\$1,963.00	481	150	\$3,915.50	\$313,240.00	8-10	\$157,040.00	Power Partners
No Bid - Graybar, Irby									
The TMLP Engineering Department recommends Wesco Quoting ERMCO Transformers with low evaluated price for a total purchase price of \$156,800									

Commissioner Martin asked with what is going on down South right now with power, do we anticipate these prices going up.

Mr. Foley responded that companies are only quoting 30 days in advance.

Manager Goulart added that they will only hold the price for a very short period right now because of the possible fluctuations due to the Market.

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blackwell to award sealed bid for 80 Single Phase Polemount Transformers 50kVA, 7.9/2.4kV Primary, 120/240V Secondary to Wesco quoting Ermco with low evaluated priced for a total purchase price of \$156,800 per the recommendation of the T&D Engineering Department. Unanimous. 21-115



**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Unit 9 Steam Turbine Inspection - TGM Change Order #13**

Manager Goulart stated that as the Commission is aware we are trying to finish up the outage and I previously polled the Commission on his issue as I needed to approve these change orders on an emergency basis in order to meet the schedule. We are hoping these will be some of the last change orders you will see because the outage is winding down. These next 3 change orders are to TGM for them to finish up the steam turbine repair and reinstallation.

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

*This memo is Change Order #13 request to PO #4500050878 for TGM to perform bearing inspection and troubleshooting services to bearings 1, 2 and 3. This bearing inspection troubleshooting service is essential to resolving the current vibration issues. Documentation of bearing distortions will be recorded and in turn will included a report with recommendations and will provide a direction for further repairs and solutions.*

**Purchase Order History**

Current Approved Contract Price	\$2,476,593.40
C.O. #13 Bearing Troubleshooting Services	\$174,845.00
<b>Contract Total</b>	<b>\$2,651,438.40</b>

**Action Requested**

*Please secure the necessary approve for Change Order #13 to Turbine Generator Maintenance to provide the services for bearing vibration troubleshooting services for \$174,845.*

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve Change Order #13 to Turbine Generator Maintenance to provide bearing troubleshooting services in the amount of \$174,845. Unanimous.

21-116

**Unit 9 Steam Turbine Inspection Change Order #14**

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

*This memo is Change Order #14 request to PO #4500050878 for TGM to perform a 16 point steam turbine and generator coupling alignment as part of the path to a resolution to determine and solve the vibration issues that the turbine is currently experiencing. This coupling alignment service is essential to resolving the current vibration issues. Documentation of coupling alignment will be recorded and in turn will include a report with recommendations and will provide a direction for solution.*

**Purchase Order History**

Current Approved Contract Price	\$2,651,438.40
C.O. #14 Coupling Troubleshooting Services	\$69,115.00
<b>New Contract Total</b>	<b>\$2,720,553.40</b>

**Action Requested**

*Please secure the necessary approve for Change Order #14 to Turbine Generator Maintenance to provide coupling alignment troubleshooting services for \$69,115.*

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blackwell to approve Change Order #14 to Turbine Generator Maintenance to provide coupling troubleshooting services for \$69,115. Unanimous. 21-117

**Unit 9 Steam Turbine Inspection Change Order #15**

Manager Goulart stated we had these done as three separate change orders because they are three separate activities but they are all connected together to get to the end of the process and that is why you are seeing them separately instead of together as one change order.

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

*This memo is Change Order #15 request to PO #4500050878 for TGM to perform a "Tops on-Tops Off" tight wire alignment services. This type of alignment service is essential to resolving the current vibration, packing rubs and radial and axial rubbing causing the vibrations.*

*Documentation of the tight wire alignments will determine proper locations and elevations of diaphragms due to turbine casing distortions will be recorded and in turn will include a report with a solution to resolve the rubbing and vibration issues.*

**Purchase Order History**

Current Approved Contract Price	\$2,720,553.40
C.O. #15 Tops On-Tops Off Tight Wire Alignment Service	\$455,715.00
<b>New Contract Total</b>	<b>\$3,176,268.40</b>

**Action Required**

*Please secure the necessary approve for Change Order #15 to Turbine Generator Maintenance to provide a Tops On-Tops Off alignment service for \$455,715.*

Commissioner Blackwell stated we are seeing these change orders, like Change Order #13, once they did #13 that triggered Change Order #14 and then #14 triggered #15. I just wanted to point that out to let the public know that these are not just one after the other. With the results that they found from #13 required them to do #14 and the results of #14 required them to do #15.

Manager Goulart added these were stacked in sequential order and that is why we did them separately. You had to do the first one and then move on to the other and then the other. They were all connected but you did not necessarily have to do the second one until you had the results from the first.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve Change Order #15 to Turbine Generator Maintenance to provide Tops On-Tops Off Tight Wire Alignment Service for \$455,715. Unanimous. 21-118

**Change Order #1 – Cleary 115KV Switchyard – McDonald Electric Corporation**

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

**Item #1**



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During the excavation of the yard at the new Cleary 115KV Switchyard site we came upon multiple boulders that cannot be shipped unless broken down into pieces that are less than 2' in diameter. The cost of any boulders removal was not in the original contract and the contractor was to notify the TMLP of such costs. We have received a quote to rock hammer and load the boulders for a cost of \$21,446.08.

### Item #2

After discussions with Algonquin Gas Company there were concerns with the drilling in proximity to the high pressure gas line. It was determined that the best course of action to protect both the gas company and the safety of the drilling personnel was to perform seismic monitoring while drilling the caissons in close proximity of the gas lines. The estimated cost for the seismic monitoring equipment is \$6,500.

Original Purchase Order	\$3,944,925.00
Item #1	\$ 21,446.08
Item #2	\$ 6,500.00
<b>Total after Change Order #1</b>	<b>\$3,972,871.08</b>

We are requesting that this be approved by the Commission so that we can issue Change Order #1 to McDonald Electric.

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blackwell to approve Change Order #1 to McDonald Electric Corporation to rock hammer and load boulders for a cost of \$21,446.08 and to perform seismic monitoring while drilling the caissons for \$6,500. Unanimous.

21-119

### Change Order #2 – Millennium Power Services

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

*This memo is Change Order #2 to Purchase Order 4500050427 (Ref. RFP20-03 Inspection and Repair of Unit No. 9 Safety and Non-Return Valves) for additional site visits required to set steam system safety valves due to numerous unit vibration trips. The original contract allowed one day to set all safety valves on one day, however, the unit has not been able to be on-line long enough to set all the safety valves at once while on-line. One more site visit is required to complete the setting of the remaining safety valves once the vibration issues are resolved.*

### Purchase Order History:

Original PO	\$29,800.00
Change Order #1	\$4,950.00
Change Order #2	\$6,000.00
<b>New Contract Total</b>	<b>\$40,750.00</b>

Please secure the necessary approval for issuance of Change Order #2 to Millennium Power Services for additional site visits in the amount of \$6,000.

Commissioner Martin stated the question I have is Change Order #1 was for one site visit. It they are both site visits why is there such a difference in price.

Mr. Botelho invited to the table.

Mr. Botelho stated that Change Order #1 was for additional valve work which was not included in the original contract. The \$6,000 is for two additional site visits.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve Change Order #2 to Millennium Power Service for additional site visits in the amount of \$6,000. Unanimous.

21-120

**Major Project Request #1182 – Revision #1 – Pole Assessment**

Manager Goulart read the following major project into the record:

Project Title: Pole Assessment (Rev. 1)

Project Description: (Reference original MPR Form 1182) Rev. 1: Request authorization for additional funds to complete the GPS asset collection. The original budget of \$750,000 was to collect all GPS data on poles and line equipment. The additional \$250,000 is to complete the electrical model which will be used for Cogsdale Outage Management and Customer Service.

Project Justification: This project will provide the data necessary for successful implementation of GIS, Outage Manager, Data Management and Fiber Management services. This data will also become an integral part of Cogsdale.

Alternates Considered: None

<u>Budget Estimate:</u>	Project Start Year:	2020
	<b>Amount of this Request:</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
	Total Approved to Date:	\$750,000
	Total Amount Requested:	\$1,000,000
	Amount Spent to Date:	\$500,000

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the Major Project Request #1182 Revision #1 in the amount of \$250,000 to complete the GPS asset collection. Unanimous.

21-121

**Major Project #1185 – Revision #1 – Distribution Network SCADA System Upgrade**

Manager Goulart read the following Major Project into the record:

Project Title: Distribution Network SCADA System Upgrade (Rev. 1)

Project Description: (Reference Original MPR Form #1185) Rev. 1: This project was approved for \$225,000. This project is now closed with a total cost of \$270,239.97. This is an overage of \$45,239.76. The original budget was based on vendors labor estimate for each location plus overheads. We ran into multiple issues which slowed progress including unforeseen field wiring changes, one bad relay and one bad protector unit which was charged to this project. The original quote did not change from the vendor and all overages are internal TMLP labor.

Project Justification: All work is complete. Funds need to be approved to close out the major project.

Alternates Considered: None

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<u>Budget Estimate:</u>	<u>Project Start Year:</u>	2020
<b>Amount of this Request:</b>	<b>\$ 45,300</b>	
<i>Total Approved to Date:</i>	<i>\$225,000</i>	
<i>Total Amount Requested:</i>	<i>\$270,300</i>	
<i>Amount Spent to Date:</i>	<i>\$270,300</i>	

Manager Goulart stated that this adjustment is not costing the ratepayers any additional money, we are just shifting the labor cost from O&M to Capital.

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blackwell to approve Major Project Request #1185 Revision #1 in the amount of \$45,300. Unanimous.

21-122

### Semiannual Corporate Financial Presentation

Manager Goulart invited Ms. Kimberly Holmes to the table.

Ms. Holmes stated that the 2020 audit is complete and we would like to take this opportunity to give a review of how we ended the year and what we have projected for 2021.

Ms. Holmes presented the following slides:

#### SLIDE 1: 2020 CORPORATE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

#### SLIDE 2: REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021 Projected</u>
Revenues	96,032,722	98,476,698
Expenses	79,275,629	84,819,474

#### SLIDE 3: REVENUES FROM SALES

	<u>2020 Audited</u>	<u>2021 Projected</u>
Residential	43,918,108	43,369,773
Commercial & Industrial	47,251,581	50,204,327
Municipal	4,328,243	4,712,095
Sales for Resales	1,525,645	2,205,784

#### SLIDE 4: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

	<u>2020 Audited</u>	<u>2021 Projected</u>
Fuel	1,425,011	1,973,849
Transmission	11,493,074	11,492,975
Distribution	11,605,540	10,340,372
Customer / Sales	3,960,748	4,024,799
Admin & General	3,743,898	4,972,411
Power Generation	7,096,030	9,666,840



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**SLIDE 5: POWER SUPPLY**

	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021 Projected</u></b>
Power Supply	31,796,976	34,380,251

**SLIDE 6: OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES**

	<b><u>Revenues</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>
2014	94,752,629	91,654,658
2015	99,532,435	90,345,088
2016	97,865,767	82,238,623
2017	96,773,157	83,286,176
2018	98,769,566	95,377,596
2019	97,696,337	84,541,089
2020 Audited	96,032,722	79,275,629
2021 Projected	98,476,698	84,819,474

**SLIDE 7: REVENUES FROM SALES**

	<b><u>Residential</u></b>	<b><u>Commercial &amp; Industrial</u></b>	<b><u>Municipal</u></b>	<b><u>Sales for Resale</u></b>
2014	37,971,053	49,966,318	4,582,581	2,808,677
2015	41,555,061	53,058,120	4,986,215	2,230,792
2016	41,535,130	51,802,590	4,815,781	1,908,898
2017	41,078,986	51,378,585	4,610,589	1,987,659
2018	43,095,432	50,819,287	4,880,964	2,081,377
2019	41,132,437	50,480,723	4,721,868	1,744,896
2020 Audited	43,918,108	47,251,581	4,328,243	1,525,645

**SLIDE 8: TRANSMISSION BY OTHERS**

	<b><u>Transmission by Others</u></b>	<b><u>Gross Payment</u></b>
2014	9,790,861	-
2015	9,892,033	-
2016	10,625,445	
2017	11,109,573	
2018	11,290,333	
2019	9,712,950	11,141,436
2020 Audited	11,142,474	13,205,491

**SLIDE 9: NET INCOME**

	<b><u>Net Income before Voluntary Contribution</u></b>	<b><u>Voluntary Contribution</u></b>	<b><u>Net Income after Voluntary Contribution</u></b>
2014	2,934,122	2,900,000	34,122

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2015	11,746,584	2,900,000	8,846,584
2016	16,392,850	2,900,000	13,492,850
2017	15,100,695	2,900,000	12,200,695
2018	3,158,246	2,947,500	210,746
2019	15,414,589	2,995,000	12,419,589
2020 Audited	17,778,556	2,995,000	14,783,556

### **SLIDE 10: 2008 TO PRESENT RATE HISTORY**

#### **Based on 750kWh Average Residential Usage**

8/1/2008	125.54
1/1/2009	118.42
5/1/2009	113.61
11/1/2009	105.77
2/1/2011	99.09
6/1/2014	98.29
10/1/2014	101.85
7/1/2015	108.98
2/1/2016 to Present	106.86

### **QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Martin stated on Slide #3 the Municipal is projected to go up.

Ms. Holmes responded that the Municipal includes the schools and town departments. As you know, a lot of the schools were not open for some part of the year last year (2020).

Commissioner Martin asked the 2021 projected figure covers what dates.

Ms. Holmes responded that would be a calendar year of 2021. (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021).

Commissioner Martin stated would you say that one of the increases was a fact that the schools were running even though there were no kids in it. They were running ventilation 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Ms. Holmes responded yes, that would do it and any hybrid type thing that they did at the end of the year, some schools were transitioning back to hybrid.

Commissioner Martin stated that the School Department had a company come in to make sure there was at least four air exchanges in and out.

The Commission thanked Ms. Holmes for the presentation.

### **Letter from the Taunton Retirement Board to Kenneth Goulart dated August 3, 2021: Subject: Retirement of Joan Mulcahy effective November 13, 2021**

Manager Goulart read the following letter into the record:



*Please be advised of the retirement for Superannuation of Joan Mulcahy an employee of the Light Plant on November 13, 2021 under the provisions set forth in Section #5 of Chapter 32 of the General laws of Massachusetts.*

*Please pay regular compensation and accumulated benefits up to the day before retirement.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.*

*Respectfully yours,*

*Karen Medeiros, Assistant Executive Director*

Manager Goulart stated that Joan is a 35 year employee of the TMLP.

The Commissioner wished Ms. Mulcahy a long and healthy retirement.

**ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE:**

Commissioner Blackwell stated I know we have been waiting for the detailed engineering report for the Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) project. Do we have a status report on this now or could we have something for the next meeting.

Manager Goulart asked Ms. Holmes to give a brief overview and then we could do a more detailed presentation at the next meeting.

Ms. Holmes was invited to the table.

Ms. Holmes stated we sent out an RFP for the Engineering Design Services. We received two responses back and the prices between the two were significantly different which made us question which one was valid because there was a huge discrepancy between the two of them. We received a third which was in between the other two but all three were significantly higher than what we originally projected. So what we are doing now is trying to validate that the numbers are accurate and that we are getting the best value for what we need to get done. We are also looking at the reserves because we had only set aside a certain amount of money to pay for the study so we are looking at ISG's budget for the future years to see if we can reserve some of those additional funds to help pay for this and at the same time we are trying to approach the Bristol County Board of Commissioners. They received some COVID funds and one of the things those funds can be used for is fiber infrastructure so we are trying to see if we can get money from them to help offset the engineering design and also take off a chunk of the fiber build in general. That would be a whole lot easier to move forward.

Commissioner Blackwell added it would be less risk for our ratepayers and more advantageous for the cost of the service for the Internet if we get some of these funds.

Ms. Holmes agreed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chairman Corr announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

Chairman Corr stated that the next order of business is Executive Session for Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations.

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Manager Goulart stated that we will not be returning to Public Session and will be adjourning in Executive Session.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Martin to go into Executive Session for Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations. (4:40 PM)

21-123

The Commission was recorded in a roll call vote to go into executive session as follows:

In Favor

Absent

Commissioner Blackwell  
Commissioner Martin  
Chairman Corr

*Executive Session discussion.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY

dmt





**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Competitive Advantage**

Manager Goulart and the Commission discussed numerous topics on this issue.

**Contract Negotiations**

Manager Goulart and the Commission discussed numerous topics on this issue.

Motion in Executive Session by Commission Martin, seconded by Commission Blackwell to adjourn.  
(5:30 PM)

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